PACIFIC LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
LIBRARY

THE
SOUTHERN CROSS

Published bi-monthly by the Ev Lutheran Church in British Guiana, New Amsterdam, Berbice British Guiana
Editor .. Cyril S. Chu . Asst. Editor .. Miss Elaine Wagner

Vol XXVIII 2 March — April, 1959

PACIFIC LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
LIBRARY

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

Miss Jean Guthrie

Pictured above is Miss Jean Guthrie, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wm Guthrie, Albouystown who was chosen Miss Luther League for 1959. Miss Guthrie is an active member of Epiphany Luther League, Albouystown; She was chosen from 12 candidates who were selected by their home leagues, as candidates.

The choosing of Miss Luther League was done in a different manner this year than in the past. Each Luther League was eligible to nominate one candidate. There was a questionnaire to be filled out and turned in to the judges. After going over the questionnaire the judges then met with each candidate personally before making their selection.

The judges all agreed that it was a most difficult task and took them many ballots before they came up with a winner. The judges were Mr. Anthony Gobin, out-going president; Pastor A.R. Bowen, President of the Ev. Lutheran Church in B.G., Pastor Frank Christhilf, League Advisor and Miss M. Petersen, woman missionary of the Church.

CONVENTION NEWS - - Continued

❖ ❖

Over 150 young people from various Luther Leagues throughout the Colony attended the evening Vesper Service at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Campbellville April 14, which marked the opening of the 16th annual Luther League Convention in British Guiana. The sermon, emphasizing the convention theme " YOUTH SEEKS A MASTER" was given by the Rev. W.E. Cox. Liturgist was the Rev. Donald R. Gebert.

Highlighting the convention program were five guest speakers drawn from variousprofessions in the Georgetown area. These guest speakers brought interesting and challenging messages to Leaguers. They were, Mr G.H.R. Clough, Director of Education who spoke on the sub-theme "MASTER FOR THE INTELLECT ", Dr. Leslie Mootoo of the Public Hospital, Georgetown spoke concerning " A MASTER FOR THE BODY", Miss Ruby S. Samlalsingh, Social Welfare Advisor to B. G. Sugar Producers' Association, guest speaker for the banquet on Wednesday night, spoke on Family Life, Mrs Mae Cholmondeley, Home Economics Teacher, Carniegie School of Home Economics brought many pertinent facts to the young people concerning the body and good health; Mr. Allen Hansen, Director U.S.I S. in B.G. spoke on the sub - theme " MASTER FOR THE HEART"

Morning and afternoon devotions throughout convention were conducted by Leaguers. Leaguers from the Skeldon Parish presented an excellent discussion on the Luther League's Five Point program The Rev. Frank Christhilf led the discussion. Mr. Cyril S. Chu, Stewardship Secretary of the Church also took the opportunity to address the young people concerning the Stewardship program of the Church in relation to themselves.

Three Bible study groups held each morning was conducted by the Misses R. Zartman, M. Fague and M. Petersen.

Election results were from President, Mr. Geofrey Tennessee, Alness Corentyne Vice - President Mr. Edward Sewdat, Skeldon, Corentyne; Secretary, Miss Barbara Smith, New Amsterdam and Treasurer, Mr Joseph Rampersaud Lochaber The Rev. H. C. Magalee was elected as Pastor Advisor.

The Rev. Arthur Henne brought the closing message on the sub - theme "A MASTER FOR SERVICE ". Following his inspiring and challenging sermon, the leaguers made tangible proof of their service to the Master in presenting their monies towards the L.L. objective, the Sandhills school and hostel. About $830 was received which is the necessary total to wipe clean the debt outstanding on this project. The school hostel presently houses 21 children who live along the Demerara River, and stay on the Sandhills compound during the week while attending Mt. Zion Lutheran Primary School. Mrs. Lambert is matron of the hostel.

This ended convention for about half the leaguers, but the other leaguers took opportunity to go on guided tours of places of interest in Georgetown, including the Milk Pasturization Plant, the Museum, the Botanical Gardens and down town Georgetown.

Special mention and thanks must be made to the host league, Redeemer Luther League for the very efficient and pleasing way convention was housed and fed and other matters that made for physical comfort. Special thanks go to Pastor W.J. Wolff, host League Advisor, and Catechist David Oudit who were not always seen around by leaguers, because they were constantly busy behind the scenes. And much deserved thanks go to Mrs. Lambert and her abled assistants who prepared such hearty and delicious meals

BUXTON PARISH

PASTOR A. R. BOWEN

CATECHIST A. A. KOWLESSAR

Sadhu Sundar Singh

During Lent, mid-week services were held every Wednesday night. A preaching mission was conducted during Holy Week.
Theme : "The Wondrous Cross"
Preachers on the following were :-
"The Knowledge of the Cross"
Catechist J.R. Singh
"The Meaning of the Cross"
Catechist John Abdool
"The Suffering of the Cross"
Catechist A.A. Kowlessar
"The Triumph of the Cross"
Rev. A.R Bowen

There was a Three-hour Good Friday service on the "Seven Glorious Words of the Cross." The Catechist was assisted by Church-Councilmen, Richard Melville and A.R. Nizam.

On Easter Sunday the Pastor baptized five (5) and confirmed five (5) and administered Holy Communion. The Services were very largely attended throughout.

Baptism - - Anita Khemwattie Devi, Shirley Patricia Gopie, Terence Albert Hamilton, Megan Patricia Clementson and Wilfred Ramdeen Ramlall.

Confirmation - - Millicent Louisa Bagot, Latchmin Diplall, Elaine Albertha Witter, Eric Shripaul Yisu Das and Wilfred Ramdeen Ramlall.

Women's League - - Sunday 1st March, was a memorable day for the Women's League when they were hosts to the Women's League Rally of the Demerara Area.

Luther League - - The members continue to show their loyalty and appreciation for the League by their regular attendance, systematic giving and keen interest in its program. The following are the officers :

Richard Melville	President
A. R. Nizam	Secretary
Juliet Kowlessar	Asst. Secretary
Catechist A. A. Kowlessar	Treasurer

Thanks - We are indeed grateful to the members who had seen the needs of the Church and made the following donations

Women's League	Purple Paraments
Luther League	Red Paraments
Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Choy & Fimily	White Paraments
Mr. Esther Ibbot	Door Mat
Mrs. Elsie Kirton	Door Mat
Mr. Richard Melville	Communion Kneeling Cushions.

LOWER CORENTYNE PARISH

PASTOR F. D. CHRISTHILF

CATECHIST S. PILLAY

St. Peter's - Fyrish Village

The year 1958 brought great blessings and we are happy to announce that the congregation reached its budget and paid its apportionment.

We humbly pray for Divine guidance and power so that we may meet with greater success this year, especially in Evangelism. Presently we are visiting many prospects and lapsed members to invite them to our Lenten services. We realize that our task is very great and we must hurry for the night draweth nigh. We hope that we can have our church soon so that more people will be attracted to our services.

Our Luther Leaguers are young but the response is encouraging. We are hoping to meet our objective this year. The newly elected officers are as follows-

President	Mr. R. Maitland
Vice-Presiden	Miss V. Yankana
Secretary	Mr. B Ramrattan
Committee Members	Mr N.S. Maitland
	,, L.H. Maitland

Lower Corentyne Parish - - Continued

St. John

Williamsburg

Catechist David Lalsingh

Our congregation has shown a decided increase in stewardship in the past 5 years although the membership has actually dropped. Looking over the figures from past years reveals that in 1954 the confirmed membership which was 183 gave $242.00 toward apportionment whereas in 1958 the confirmed membership was only 84 but the apportionment paid was $821.00. We hope that we may increase in evangelism also.

At the congregational meeting held in January a budget of $900.00 was adopted. After a long discussion, a resolution was also passed that we begin to pay a long standing debt on our Church furniture. Many of the people at that meeting pledge to give the cost of a pew or other pieces of furniture so that before the meeting was finished over $200 00 had been pledged. We appreciate this spirit in our members.

Our three Sunday Schools are doing very well and all of them paid for their Sunday School literature for 1958 before the end of the year, by paying quarterly. We want to thank all of our teachers who have worked hard during the past year. We have a new teacher, Miss Ruth Lalsingh, and we wish her success.

The Luther League is progressing under the leadership of President Robert Phagoo. Recently the leaguers played a volley ball match with St. Matthew's League from Fairfield. We are hoping to start playing table tennis soon.

Improvements have been made in the Church building and we wish to thank Mr. Muthsammy, one of our members who repaired the church's windows free of cost.

St James

Whim Corentyne

Catechist David Totaram

Big things often come from small beginning. Such is the case with the congregation of St. James Lutheran Church at Whim, Corentyne. Whim is an interesting, well populated fishing village situated about 20 miles east of New Amsterdam along the coastal road that leads to Skeldon. The main part of the village with its stilted houses sprawls out over the salty flats between the main road and the ocean Across the main road the green and white buildings of the Government Compound give the appearance of an island fortress only it is separated from the surrounding houses by an expanse of arid land instead of water.

For many years the members of St. James crowded into a narrow room under the Catechist's house that was barely twelve feet wide. Their altar was a shelf nailed on the wall with a wooden cross nailed above it. When the pastor conducted the liturgy he practically had to stand on the people who sat in the front bench. In these cramped quarters services were held every Sunday, and a Sunday School was started which eventually had over 70 members. Since this was the only Christian Church in the village, both Christians of other denominations and non-christians attended, so much so that it wasn't long before there was not enough space for them. Some kept away because of the uncomfortable conditions, but many remained faithfull and continued to worship and to bring in others in the confident hope that someday a Church building would be erected.

A few years ago the Lutheran Church was fortunate to purchase three lots of land in the heart of the village along the main dam that leads out to the ocean. It is a picturesque spot with coconut palm trees shading the entrance. An old house on the property was sold and the money was used to bring in dirt to make the land higher than

Lower Corentyne Parish - - Continued

flood level. For awhile more, nothing was done but finally through special funds made available by the Board of Foreign Missions of the U.L.C.A. a lovely concrete chaple was erected. Its bamboo color walls and maroon roof blend in well with the surrounding community and the members are very proud of it.

In anticipation of the expected dedication the members finished paying their 1958 apportionment by September and then diverted the rest of their money into furnishings. On Harvest Sunday in October a record offering of $200.00 was received for this purpose. The pastor's and catechist's families and other members also gave special gifts so that when the furniture was installed the congregation is free of debt.

November 9, 1958 dawned bright and clear It was a perfect day for a dedication. The President of our Lutheran Church, the Rev. Aubrey R. Bowen travelled 80 miles from Buxton to preach the dedication sermon and the Church was overflowing with Lutheran members and well wishers from near and far. We thank God for answering the prayers of our Lutherans at Whim. To show its gratitude the congregation held a thankgiving preaching mission later in the month and enrolled 10 prospective members in a class for new members This is the spirit of the members of St. James who will not rest until Whim is a thoroughly Christian village.

This year is new and we have already had our congregational meeting where we have planned our budget for 1959. We pray and beg God to continue His blessing upon us as we work for Him and His Church.

Luther League - -

We have elected and installed our new officers for this year.
They are: —

Jatischand Surujpaul .... President
Lennox Sukdeo .... Vice President
Lochan Persaud .... Secretary
Isaac Ramessar .. Asst. Secretary
Basmattee Nathoo ... Treasurer
Leonard Sukhu .. Ex-officio
David Totaram .. Advisor

A budget for 1959-1960 has been planned which we have already started to work on. Our 1959 objective of $40.00 was paid 1st September and were able to give a gas lantern as a gift to the congregation for their new chapel.

St. Michael

Alness

Catechist David Totaram

The old year is gone, and the new year has come. We have new plans and hopes for this congregation in this year. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless us as we go forward in the work that is laid before us.

We had our congregational meeting and those who were elected to the church council are Mr. A. Soman (3 years) Mrs. I Santos (3 years) Mr. V. Tannassee (1 year) Mr. A. Kampta (2 years) Mr. G. Tannassee (2 years)

Luther League

Those elected and installed for office in 1959 are as follows-

Geoffrey Tannassee .... President
D. Kampta .... Vice President
Irene Tannassee .... Secretary
Kamlapattie Beharry .... Treasurer
Wilfred Soman .... Asst. Secretary
David M. Totaram .... Advisor
C. Maripen Committee Members
Maureen Maripen " "
Isaac Mallay (absent) " "

We praise the Lord for the accomplishments we have made during the past, and we continue to pray for His blessings and guidance during this year.

SKELDON PARISH

PASTOR F. D. CHRISTHILF

Nativity -- Crabwood Creek

Catechist J. Ramlochan

On December 15, 1958, Luther Leaguers of the Upper Corentyne District League assembled at Nativity Church for a Rally. Delegates from Emmanuel, St. Philips St Matthias and St Barnabas joined with delegates from the host congregation to overflow the buildings. At the opening service Mr. Anthony Gobin, Synodical Luther League President, preached the sermon on the theme "The Blood of Life" while Mr. Edward Sewdat, District League President, conducted the liturgy.

Miss Dhanpattie Mohabir welcomed Rally on behalf of the host league. Mr. Gobin then led the delegates and visitors in a soul-searching discussion on the topic "Youth Work In the Church". Many leaguers gave their ideas of how youth could help in the church. Mr. Gobin is to be commended for his forthright witness to all of the youths present, and inspired by his sincerity the leaguers promised to do their best

The next period was community singing which was led by Miss Ruth Zartman. Using nicely printed cards she taught the leaguers many new carols and they were thankful to her. Then each league in the district presented its report of activities during the past quarter. After each report our advisor, Pastor Christhilf, gave his comments and Mr. Gobin also told the leagues how happy he was to see them growing.

At the business session led by President Sewdat long discussions were held concerning the Luther League objective and Inter-League games. Following this there was an hour of recreation and closing devotions were conducted by Pastor Christhilf.

On Christmas Eve, Nativity Sunday School presented a concert It was well staged and the children acted very well. The church was crowded with attentive people and after the concert the members went carol singing until midnight. On Christmas morning at 5.00 a.m. there was a candlelight service. Pastor Christhilf brought the Christmas message. At the Old Year's Night service Catechist Ramlochan brought an inspiring message that impressed the members.

Emmanuel -- Skeldon

Catechist Harry Rajabally

The members of this congregation started 1959 quietly and bravely, praying that God would do great work among us as we let Him use us.

On February 1, we had our first congregational meeting. Pastor Christhilf made a report of activities and progress during 1958 so that the members could see what God had accomplished through them. A committee on Evangelism and Stewardship was elected as follows--

Messrs. Harlow Bowen, R. Raman, Ongkar Narayan. Timothy Sharma, Gagindra Persaud, Albert Tiam Fook, Miss Claudette Barran.

The meaning of the word "Stewardship" is becoming well known to our members now. This can be seen by the fact that the congregation's budget is doubling each year since 1956. The members have pledged more than ever before and we feel confident that God is leading us in a venture in faith.

During January and February the following people were received....

By Transfer - Mr. Harry Singh from St. James Whim

By baptism - Mrs. Harlow Bowen
Mr. Ramai Boodhoo

By confirmation- Misses Irene Hazel
Pamela Pillay
Messrs. Stanley A. Hazel Basil Jokhai
Denny F. Brijbassie.

Congratulations to-

1. Mr. & Mrs. Ramkrit on their new baby. we wish them good health.
2. Mr. Roshadeen Ramnarine who recently left British Guiana to enter Michigan State University.

FIRST QUARTERS

Skeldon Parish	Apportionment	Paid	Over	Deficit
Congregations				
1. NATIVITY	$ 64.00	$ 75.00	$ 11.00	
2. EMMANUEL	95.00	130 00	35.00	
3. St. PHILIP	62.50	100.00	37.50	
4. St. MATTHIAS	62 50	50.00		$ 12.50
Lower Corentyne Parish				
Congregations				
5. ST. LUKE	90.00	70.00		20 00
6. ST. STEPHEN	79.50	55.00		24.50
7. ST. MICHAEL	65.00	80 00	15.00	
8. ST. JAMES	62.50	100.00	37.50	
9. ST. JOHN	205.25	185.00		20.25
10. ST. PETER	125.00	125.00		
11. ST. BARTHOLOMEW	82.50	85.00	2.50	
Canje & Lower Berbice River Parish				
Congregation				
12. TRANSFIGURATION	140.00	NIL		140.00
13. ST. THOMAS	147 50	48.00		99.50
14. ST. CATHERINE	70.75	55.00		15.75
15. ST. MARK	62.50	62.50		
16. ST. CLEMENT	64 00	60.00		4.00
New Amsterdam Parish				
Congregations				
17. EBENEZER	1,180.00	735.12		444.58
18. ST. TIMOTHY	165.00	185.00	20.00	
Upper Berbice River Parish				
Congregations				
19. GRACE	133.00	133.00		
20. REFORMATION	146.25	94.00		52.25
21. ATONEMENT	95.00	NIL		95.00
22. MOUNT HERMON	177.25	65.00		112.25
23. ST. PAUL	235 00	100.00		135.00
24. MOUNT CARMEL	214.25	80.00		134.25
25. MOUNT OLIVET	177.50	NIL		177.50
West Coast Berbice Parish				
Congregations				
26. GOOD SHEPHERD	132.50	133.00	.50	
27. RESURRECTION	68.50	70.00	1.50	
28. NAZARETH	67.50	49.00		18.50
29. FAITH	70.00	55.00		15.00
30. ADVENT	72.50	72.50		
31. HOPE	122.50	50.00		72.50
32. CHRIST	119.50	35.00		84.50
Upper East Coast Parish				
Congregations				
33. BETHANY	64.00	27.00		37.00
34. ST. MATTHEW	67.50	NIL		67.50
35, HOLY COMMUNION	105.00	NIL		105.00

Stewardship News - : - Continued

Buxton Parish	Apportionment	Paid	Over	Deficit
Congregations				
36. SALEM	70.00	70.00		
37. MESSIAH	73.50	73.00		
38. HOLY TRINITY	112 00	70 00		42.50
39. SADHU SUNDAR SINGH	80.00	80,00		
Bel Air Parish				
Congregations				
40, ST. ANDREW	88.25	88.25		
41. ST. MARY	95.00	95.00		
42, REDEEMER	130.00	130.00		
Georgetown Parish				
Congregations				
43. CALVARY	212.50	215.00	2.50	
44. EPIPHANY	310.00	310,00		
45. MOUNT ZION	90.00	60.00		30.00
Preaching Point				
VREED-EN-HOOP		35.00		
	$6,152.50	$4,390 37		

First Quarter's Apportionment	$6,152.50
Amount received to April 30, 1959	4,390.37
Deficit	$1,762.13
71/3% received	

(Sgd-) C-S- Chu,
P.G. Hansen,

Stewardship Secretaries

Skeldon Parish .. .. Continued

St. Philip's - - Springlands

Pastor F.D. Christhilf **Catechist Harry Rajabally**

This congregation has started well this year in Evangelism and Stewardship. The members are pledging 100% and another preaching mission is planned for later in the year. After three months instruction the following people were received as members.-

By baptism - Master Baljeet Persaud.
By confirmation - Miss Sabitri Virana
Master Samuel Ramnarine

Mr. & Mrs. Choo Yick were received by transfer from Ebenezer Lutheran Church and their last son was baptized.

The Luther League recently played two test matches in cricket with Nativity Luther League and won both. The first by 65 to 49 and the second by 128 to 74 The introduction of this type of competition has brought renewed interest in the world league programme.

We thank Almighty God for bringing one of our most faithful members Mrs. Hyacinth Angels, safely through her recent operation and pray she may increase in strength and health.